

A circular black and white stamp. The outer ring contains the text "OIP" at the top and "PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE" at the bottom. The center of the stamp contains the date "APR 16 2001".

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Yasuaki IKEMURA, et al.

Application No.: 09/772,922

Filed: January 31, 2001

CPA Filing Date (if applicable):

For: MERCHANDISE ORDER APPARATUS  
AND METHOD THEREOF, AND  
RECORDING MEDIUM

Group Art Unit: 2163

**Examiner: Unassigned**

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APR 17 2001

**Technology Center 2100**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:
  - 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
  - 1b. ☐ Copies of IDS citations. *(If box not checked, see Item 6, below)*
  - 1c. ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
  - 1d. ☒ English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
  - 1e. ☐ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
  - 1f. ☐ List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).
  - 1g. ☐ List of Additional Submitted Documents (ATTACHMENT 1(g), hereto).
2. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b):

*(Check either Item 2a or 2b)*

  - 2a. ☒ before the latter of three (3) months after the U.S. patent application filing date or before the first Office Action on the merits therein; or

- 2b. ☐ with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) or Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) and before the first Office Action on the merits therein.
- 2c. ☐ during 3-month suspension requested concurrently with filing of CPA or RCE
- 2d. ☐ with responses to Notice of Missing Parts in relation to CPA filed \_\_\_\_\_.
- Accordingly, no fee or § 1.97(e) Statement is required.
3. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance.
- (Check either Item 3a or 3b; Item 3b to be checked if any reference known for more than 3 months)*
- 3a. ☐ The §1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable. Accordingly, no fee is required.
- 3b. ☐ The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) is:
- ☐ enclosed.
- ☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
4. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) after the Final Office Action or the Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee.
- The § 1.97(e) Statement (Item 5 below) is applicable.
- The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) is:
- ☐ enclosed.
- ☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
5. ☐ Statement under § 1.97(e) *(applicable if Item 3a or Item 4 is checked)*
- (Check either Item 5a or 5b)*
- 5a. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1), it is stated that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- 5b. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2), it is stated that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
6. ☐ This is a continuation/divisional/continuation-in-part application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b).
- (Check appropriate Items 6a and/or 6b)*
- 6a. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were previously cited in prior application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, of which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120, have been omitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

- 6b. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were not previously cited in prior application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, of which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120, are provided herewith.
7. ☐ This is a continuation/divisional application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d).  
(Check either Item 7a or 7b)
- 7a. ☐ The Issue Fee has not been paid.
- 7b. ☐ A Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5) is filed concurrently herewith or has been granted. A continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) after payment of the Issue Fee is proper in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d)(1)(ii).
8. ☐ This is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.  
(Check either Item 8a or 8b)
- 8a. ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on \_\_\_\_\_. A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, but inadvertent omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental IDS can be considered as if properly filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8b. ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed within one (1) month of the Notice under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(i), mailed \_\_\_\_\_. (MPEP 609, Form ¶ 6.51, July 1997.)
9. ☒ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:  
(Check appropriate Items 9a, 9b, 9c and/or 9d)
- 9a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. (See U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2031 (Reply to Comment 68).)
- 9b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 9c. ☒ satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.
- 9d. ☐ enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
10. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

11. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 for this Information Disclosure Statement and/or Petition to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: April 16, 2001

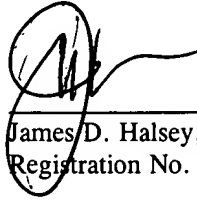
700 Eleventh Street, N.W., Suite 500

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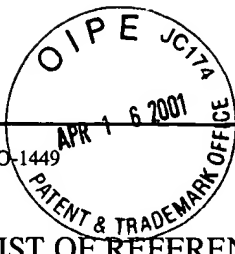
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By:



James D. Halsey, Jr.

Registration No. 22,729



Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 826.1672	APPLICATION NO. 09/772,922
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT  (Use several sheets if necessary)		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Yasuaki IKEMURA, et al.	
		FILING DATE January 13, 2001	GROUP ART UNIT 2163

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AG	JP-A-9-24999	1/28/97	Japan			Abst	
	AH	JP-A-10-213472	8/11/98	Japan			Abst	
	AI	JP-A-1-320568	12/26/89	Japan			Abst	
	AJ	JP-A-62-95696	5/2/87	Japan			Abst	
	AK	JP-A-63-82995	4/13/88	Japan			Abst	
	AL							

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AM	
	AN	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
<b>*EXAMINER:</b> Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	



# PRIOR ART INFORMATION LIST

Your case No.	826.1672
Our case No.	2000FJ621

Inventor, Patent number, Country, Author, Title, Number of Document	Issue date	Concise Explanation of the Relevance (indication of page, column, line, figure of the relevant portion)
JP-A-9-24999	January 28, 1997	Abstract
JP-A-10-213472	August 11, 1998	Abstract
JP-A-1-320568	December 26, 1989	Abstract
JP-A-62-95696	May 2, 1987	Partial translation
JP-A-63-82995	April 13, 1988	Partial translation